

CHI supports the legislative efforts of this committee to advocate for the needs of children and families who may be at increased vulnerability in the current economic recession.

Attached please find documents that provide background information for Select Committee on Children leadership and members on CenteringPregnancy which is referenced in this bill – Sec. 9 (inserted below)

- 1) Press release announcing the Trout Premiere Care Award CHI received in recognition for the impact CenteringPregnancy has shown to improve birth outcomes through peer reviewed published studies. The application for the award provides the short review of the model and selected study results. This was the basis for the award selection. Of note, out of six recipients in 2010, CHI received the top award and one other recipient was a CenteringPregnancy program in Washington D.C.
- 2) AHRQ Innovation Profile for CenteringPregnancy which is a very good description of the model as well as this organization's assessment of the program and research findings.

The Centering Healthcare Institutes website is <http://www.centeringhealthcare.org/> for more information including a bibliography section with pdf files of many of the published findings.

Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Public Health, within available appropriations and in collaboration with the Departments of Social Services and Education, shall endeavor to prevent the increase in low-birth-weight infants resulting from the recession, to reduce the cost to the state from unnecessary hospitalizations of such infants, as well as the health and cognitive injury to children resulting from such condition, and to decrease the growing racial disparity in the rates of occurrence of low-birth-weight infants by (1) maximizing co-enrollment in the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children and Medicaid for all eligible women; (2) encouraging tobacco cessation programs targeted to pregnant women; and (3) promoting the use of the centering pregnancy model of prenatal care. The department may recover the costs of implementing the provisions of this section through funds available from the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund established under section 4-28f of the general statutes and the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Fund.

Thank you for sharing this information with your committee. Feel free to contact me for any further information.

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